



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**  
**Office of General Counsel**

**Torts Law Group (021)**  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20420

**Telephone: (202) 461-4900**

**In Reply Refer To: GCL 487713**

**Certified Mail #7004 2890 0001 9189 2495**

August 3, 2021

Aaron G. Durden, Esq.  
10 West Monument Avenue  
Dayton, OH 45402

Re: Administrative Tort Claim of Jason Meier

Dear Mr. Durden:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has thoroughly investigated the facts and circumstances surrounding your client's administrative tort claim. Our adjudication of your client's claim included a review of his medical records, a review of his claim by a medical reviewer in a different part of the country, and interviews of medical personnel.

The Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA), 28 U.S.C. §§ 1346(b) and 2671-2680, under which you filed this claim, provides for monetary compensation when a Government employee, acting within the scope of employment, injures another by a negligent or wrongful act or omission. Medical negligence means there was a breach in the standard of care and that breach proximately caused an injury. The standard of care is the level at which similarly qualified medical professionals would have managed the care under the same or similar circumstances.

Our review concluded that there was no negligent or wrongful act on the part of an employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) acting within the scope of employment that caused you compensable harm. Accordingly, the claim is denied.

If your client is dissatisfied with the denial of his claim, he may file suit directly under the FTCA, 28 U.S.C. §§ 1346(b) and 2671-2680. The FTCA provides that when an agency denies an administrative tort claim, the claimant may seek judicial relief in a Federal district court. The claimant must initiate the suit within six months of the mailing of this notice as shown by the date of this denial (28 U.S.C. § 2401(b)). In any lawsuit, the proper party defendant is the United States, not the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Please note that FTCA claims are governed by a combination of Federal and state laws. Some state laws may limit or bar a claim or lawsuit. VA attorneys handling FTCA claims work for the Federal government and cannot provide advice regarding the impact of state laws or state filing requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CH' followed by a stylized flourish.

Cynthia Hernandez  
Deputy Chief Counsel